

Government Acts To Stop Tongues Of War Gossipers

**Announces That Rumor
Mongers Are To Be Dealt
With Promptly**

Jury Hears Thompson

**Defence Society Organizer to
Return To-day for Further
Questioning**

John C. Knox, Assistant United States Attorney here, announced yesterday that war gossip had reached a point where the Department of Justice deemed it its duty to deal promptly with all baseless rumors and those who spread them.

He made the announcement after a Federal grand jury for three hours had questioned C. S. Thompson, organizer of the American Defence Society, who recently made statements that fourteen spies had been shot in this country and that two ships, carrying small arms ammunition for the Germans, had cleared from the port of New York. Both of these assertions the government denied.

Mr. Thompson left the Federal Building with instructions to return to-day. He frankly told the jurors that his authority for the statement about the arms-carrying ships came from rumor and from an article printed in "The Chicago Tribune." The name of his informant about the spies he steadfastly refused to divulge, though he suggested a channel, pursuing which he believed the Federal authorities could confirm that the story had been told to him as he subsequently related it.

Will Not Prosecute
After further questioning of Mr. Thompson to-day Mr. Knox will ask the grand jury to hand up a presentment in the case, and while it is understood that the Department of Justice will not press for prosecution, it hopes to establish and to give wide publicity to a precedent that in war time it is a bad policy to gossip.

"If a citizen thinks he has important information bearing on the war," said Mr. Knox, "the place to report it is to the government, not in restaurants or saloons or railway cars. The Department of Justice and the administration have had enough of these rumors. They weaken the government's hand, they undermine public confidence and they spread fear and misgiving in the hearts of thousands of parents whose sons are with the colors. It will be difficult, of course, to determine just where honest, constructive criticism ends and malicious gossip begins, but in the case of Mr. Thompson the issues seem well defined, and the grand jury will be asked to report its findings."

Mr. Thompson Resigns
On account of his statements, one made at a luncheon of the American Defence Society, the other embodied in a letter written to Senator Chamberlain, of Oregon, on the stationery of the society, Mr. Thompson has retired from the society. He tendered his resignation Monday on the ground that his continued connection with the organization would hamper its work in view of his clash with the Federal authorities.

It was said yesterday at the society's headquarters that the resignation had not yet been acted upon. R. M. Hurd, Charles Stewart Davidson and others prominent in the society said they knew nothing of the case except what they had read in the newspapers. Colonel Roosevelt is the organization's honorary president. Mr. Thompson was a former newspaper man and publicity agent and is forty-one years old. He received no salary from the society, having organized it entirely through desire to further the country's war aims.

Nearing's Plan to Get McCarthy Scalp Fails

**Gregory Refuses to Remove
Marshal on Complaint of
Pacifist Leader**

Scott Nearing, chairman of the national executive committee of the People's Council of America, was informed yesterday by Attorney General Thomas Gregory that he would not oblige Mr. Nearing by removing Thomas D. McCarthy from the office of United States Marshal in this district.

"I have to-day completed my investigation of the charges you have made," wrote the Attorney General. "McCarthy denied having said to you that he was not an officer of the law, sworn to prevent disorder, he would stand on the fringe of the crowd and clap his hands while you were being hung in Central Park. He also denies having said anything substantially to that effect. He also denies having said, in substance, the other things you charge him with saying."

As to the alleged statement concerning hanging, applause in Central Park the People's Council retorted: "McCarthy denied having said to you that he was not an officer of the law, sworn to prevent disorder, he would stand on the fringe of the crowd and clap his hands while you were being hung in Central Park. He also denies having said anything substantially to that effect. He also denies having said, in substance, the other things you charge him with saying."

Would Bar Sacred Tipple

**Pious Indians Await Ruling of
Congress on Teyota**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Legislation to prevent the importation of Teyota, a stimulative liquor made in Mexico from ractus blossoms and used extensively in connection with religious celebrations by Indians in the Southwest, was urged to-day before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee during consideration of the Indian appropriation bill.

Mrs. Gertrude Bonnin, secretary of the Society of American Indians, declared that Congress should prevent American Indians from receiving Teyota, as it has alcoholic liquors and drugs.

Repeated efforts to prevent importation of the liquor have failed because of objection that such legislation would interfere with religious freedom. Many Indians from the Far West, clad in their native costumes, attended the hearing to-day.

President Out Again

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—President Wilson cancelled the Cabinet meeting this afternoon and went for a motor drive. It was the first time he had been out of the White House since Friday, when he was taken with a troublesome cold.

Men With Teuton Names Handled Torpedoes, Treason Trial Shows

**Effort to Show That Hennig Was Charged With Mutilating
Steering Apparatus Through Enmity of Inspector
at Bliss Plant Fails**

The delicate gyroscopic steering apparatus for torpedoes, which Paul Hennig, now on trial for treason, is alleged to have mutilated at the E. W. Bliss torpedo plant at South Brooklyn, passed through the hands of several men, before and after it reached him, all of them Teutonic in name, at least.

Apart from another unsuccessful effort to show that the treason charge lodged against Hennig was the outcome of enmity entertained against him by Lieutenant Francis L. Shea, chief naval inspector of the plant, this was the most striking feature of yesterday's testimony.

Even the government inspector, who claims credit for having discovered the irregularities which resulted in the arrest of Hennig, has been a citizen of the United States for only three years.

This was Charles Teitelbaum, who said he came from Russian Poland in 1903 and who, according to the record, entered the government employ three and one-half years ago.

Parts in Evidence
The gyroscopic parts alleged to have been damaged were in evidence, and United States Attorney Melville France sought to prove that so vital were they to the proper working of torpedoes that a deviation of 1-1000 of an inch in measurements would render them defective.

Among the men who handled them were Hans von Hof and Ludwig Landel or Steutzel, besides a seventeen-year-old boy named Brunning. This was before they reached Hennig, and cross-examination it was developed that when Teitelbaum found a substance resembling emery dust in one of the bearings a company inspector in the government inspector's cage, where

Embargo Burdens Mails Steamers Carry Parcels Post to Relieve Congestion

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Freight embargoes and weather delays have thrown a heavy new burden on the mail service by adding thousands of tons to the parcels post. Otto Praeger, Second Assistant Postmaster General, said to-day that steamers were being used for the first time in carrying parcels post in an effort to forestall congestion and that various changes in practice had been made to speed up the service.

Owing to missed connections and weather conditions, deliveries now are twelve to twenty-four late between New York and Chicago, and from twenty-four to forty-eight hours to the Pacific Coast. Delays to southbound shipments are less.

Nightly parcels post service by steamer from New York to Norfolk has been put into effect with a schedule of nineteen and one-half hours, faster than by train in the present conditions.

Distribution of westbound mail now is being done after the mail crosses the Mississippi, instead of at New York, to relieve the "jammed" condition of New York terminals.

Parcel post business in December was 1,173,000 sacks more than in the same month of 1916.

11 Ounces of Bread Voted As Daily Ration in France

PARIS, Jan. 29.—A bread ration of 300 grammes (slightly less than eleven ounces) daily for each person was approved by the Chamber of Deputies yesterday by a vote of 385 to 92, after an interpellation by the Socialists, who held that the quantity was insufficient for a laborer.

Victor Boret, Minister of Provisions, explained that the present bread cards were provisional, and that through the efforts of the Agricultural Commissioners, the grain production would be increased.

Warns Against Export by Parcels Post Without License

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Warning was issued by the War Trade Board to-night against the export shipment of goods on the conserved list by parcel post without obtaining the necessary license.

Such shipment is prohibited by the espionage act, and persons convicted are liable to a fine of \$10,000 or two years in prison, or both.

Belgian, 50, Who Fought at Liege, Tries to Enlist in Naval Reserve

**Anton Laroche, Living Here With Family, Wants to Serve
as Cook Despite Honorable Discharge—Gives
Graphic Picture of German Atrocities**

Anton Laroche, a discharged Belgian soldier, who said he faced the Germans at Liege, yesterday volunteered to join the United States Naval Reserve as a cook. A veteran past fifty, who had been wounded in action, Laroche insisted that he be permitted to serve again. The enrolling officer at 280 Broadway has the Belgian's application under consideration.

"I succeeded in getting out of Belgium with my wife and family," the old soldier told the recruiting authorities, "one year ago, after I had fought in the ranks of the Belgian army since the outbreak of the war. At Ostend and Liege I was in the thick of the fight despite my years. The sights I saw have made me an old man. The atrocities which you Americans have only read about I have been with my own eyes."

Saw Bodies Breathe High
"I have seen the bodies of men and women piled breast high in the streets of cities and villages. I have seen men and women murdered—stood up against a wall and shot like dogs merely because they smiled, because they could just resist a smile, despite the horrors, at the Teuton arrogance and pomposity."

It was not customary to admit company employees, tried to blow the dust off. Teitelbaum was recalled to the stand as a witness yesterday, and declared that scratches on various gyroscopic bearings rendered them unfit to use in the steering gear of torpedoes, then he went under the cross-examination of Arthur Wing, Hennig's chief counsel.

"Do you remember that ten days before November 12, when these parts were found, Hennig called your attention to another bearing that you scratched on various gyroscopic bearings rendered them unfit to use in the steering gear of torpedoes, then he went under the cross-examination of Arthur Wing, Hennig's chief counsel."

"Yes, he did that once," replied Teitelbaum.

"Who cleaned those bearings?"

"A boy named Brunning."

The boy, Teitelbaum said, cleaned the alleged defective parts with gasoline to remove the vaseline with which they had been covered at the time they were packed. Teitelbaum said he then took the bearings to Hennig's department.

"What did you say?"

"I said I wanted these parts assembled," said Teitelbaum.

"What did Hennig do?"

"Took me over to the other man."

"Was that other man Ludwig Landel or a man named Steutzel?"

"It may have been Steutzel."

"Frame-up" Charge Denied

Mr. Wing then reverted to the "frame-up" theory which he enunciated when Inspector Hornberger, another government witness, was on the stand several days ago.

"Is it not a fact that Lieutenant Shea and Hennig were not on speaking terms?" he demanded.

Teitelbaum said he did not know, and Mr. Wing then said:

"Don't you know that Shea went to Mr. Flynn, manager of the Bliss plant, and told him he wanted to have Hennig fired, that he had nothing on him, but did not want him around?"

"Certainly not."

Ensign Joseph A. Flynn, a former enlisted man and a torpedo expert, testified that some of the gyroscopic parts in evidence were unfit for use. He will undergo cross-examination to-day.

Arrested for Threat To Kill Ford and Son

**Austrian Demanded That
\$10,000 Be Placed Under
Stone; Decoyed Into Trap**

[Special Correspondence]
DETROIT, Jan. 29.—John Slusarski, an Austrian, twenty-five years old, was arrested to-day by postoffice inspectors. He confessed he had written a letter to Henry Ford, demanding \$10,000, under the threat that he would kill both Mr. Ford and his son, Edsel, if the money was not forthcoming within thirty days.

The letter, which was written in bad English, demanded that Ford put \$10,000 under a stone at a certain spot.

Mr. Ford received the letter on January 2 and turned it over to a postoffice inspector. He also engaged a detective agency. A decoy package was fixed up and taken to the spot indicated by Slusarski.

After midnight Monday a figure was seen sneaking up to the spot by detectives who were watching. They waited until the man obtained the package and started to run with it. Detectives finally overhauled the fleeing Austrian, and, after a struggle, disarmed him. He carried a knife and a revolver.

When arraigned before United States Commissioner Hurd Slusarski pleaded guilty and made a complete statement in which he said that he was alone in the plan. He was held for the grand jury.

Only a short time ago a threat was made to kill Edsel Ford's young son, unless a sum of money was forthcoming, the culprit being captured in the same manner as Slusarski.

House Gets Bill Making Shipyards a Military Zone

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—The administration bill to make shipyards a guarded military zone, already passed by the Senate, was brought into the House to-day with plans for hurrying it through.

Chairman Alexander of the Merchant Marine Committee told the House that recent enemy activities for destruction of ships now building made its enactment immediately necessary.

U. S. Seaman Lost Overboard

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—The Navy Department has been informed that Seaman William E. Rolter, National Naval Volunteers, 829 Wood Avenue, Bridgeport, Conn., was lost overboard from the U. S. S. Pensacola on January 12.

Red Cross to Keep Kin In Touch With Troops

**Camp Service Established in
France, to Be Put in
Effect Here**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—To assist in keeping relatives in personal touch with soldiers in training camps and hospitals, the American Red Cross has notified Secretary Baker that it is prepared to establish at home the same camp service already established in France.

Secretary Baker recently wrote to Chairman Davison of the Red Cross War Council suggesting that the Red Cross assist in establishing this medium of communication.

"American Red Cross representatives at the camp here, as in France," wrote Secretary Baker, "would have access to daily lists of admissions and evacuations from the hospitals, and so far as it is in accord with necessary medical rules, would be allowed to talk with sick men. They would be expected to keep families constantly informed as to the condition and progress of the men in the hospitals, to write letters for men unable to write themselves and in general to fulfill that clause of the Red Cross charter which designates the society as a medium of communication between troops in the field and their families at home."

Chairman Davison replied that the Red Cross would immediately appoint suitable men "researchers" in the various camps to put the service in operation as quickly as possible and would abide by whatever regulations the War Department prescribed.

Attention was called by the adjutant general's office to the fact that many registrants who expect to be called to service are prematurely giving up their jobs. According to reports from local boards, there have been instances in which registrants quit work as soon as they received their questionnaire.

Many men who are in Class I, it was said, will probably not be needed to fill the next draft increment, and these in deferred classes are almost certain not to be sent to camp for many months at least. Even those who are placed in Class I, with low reserve numbers, may be rejected in the physical examination.

Board of Censors Calls N.Y. American Story a Falsehood

**Recommends That Facts
Be Placed Before Fed-
eral Grand Jury**

Wants Author Indicted

**Not "Slightest Base in Truth
for Account of Theft of
Spy Evidence"**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—The following resolution was passed at a meeting of the Censorship Board this afternoon:

"The attention of the Censorship Board has been called to an article published in the New York American of Sunday, January 27, purporting to be an account of the theft from the postal censorship in New York of documentary evidence revealing the work of the German spy system."

"This article is a malicious jumble of falsehoods and misstatements, not one of the many alleged facts having the slightest base in truth."

"The censor, whoever he was, stole from the postal censorship authorities in New York."

"Lieutenant Arthur D. Brigham, of the cable censorship, who was cited as the writer of the article, and other charges may have originated, was not a witness before the House committee, and no such statement was made by any other witness at the hearing."

"The article further states that the removal of Captain Ogden L. Mills, of the military intelligence service, from membership of the executive of the censorship office in New York is the first result of the plot."

"This is unqualifiedly false. Captain Ogden L. Mills, while awaiting orders to proceed to France, was temporarily attached to the postal censorship committee in New York, where he did most excellent service. When ordered to France his connection ceased automatically."

"The censorship board recommends that these facts be called to the attention of the Federal grand jury, with a view of obtaining an indictment against the author of this criminal libel, and the members of the censorship board hold themselves at the disposal of the United States Attorney as witnesses should the United States Attorney need them as such."

"It is resolved that a copy of this resolution, duly certified to by the secretary of the board, be forwarded without delay to the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York."

(Signed.)
"FREDERICK BULKLEY HYDE,
Secretary to the Board."

Jumps to Rank of Major

**Second Lieutenant Promoted
on Pershing's Advice**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Second Lieutenant Theodore C. Baker, of Cambridge, Mass., has been promoted to the rank of major, on the recommendation of General Pershing, the War Department announced to-day.

Major Baker is a member of the 26th or New England National Guard Division, now in France. He was attached to the headquarters' troop of Major General Edwards's division until his promotion, which dates from January 17.

The promotion was made on the recommendation of General Pershing, and no details of the big jump in rank were made known. Army men believe, however, that Baker is a member of General Edwards's headquarters' troops, and has had an opportunity of impressing his chief with his military excellence, warranting the promotion.

Other promotions announced to-day, on recommendations of General Pershing, included the following members of the New England Division: Major Alfred E. Foote, Holyoke, Mass., to be lieutenant colonel, and First Lieutenant Joseph W. M. Donnell, Dorchester, Mass.; Nathaniel S. Simkins, Haskell Street, Beverly Farms, and Joseph W. O'Connor, Worcester, Mass., to be captains.

Aid to O'Ryan Named

**Captain Jaekel Made Senior
on Commander's Staff**

CAMP WADSWORTH, S. C., Jan. 29.—Captain H. Francis Jaekel has been designated as senior aid to Major General John F. O'Ryan, commander of the 27th Division, succeeding Captain E. W. Moore, who recently resigned to accept a position on the staff of Governor Whitman. It was announced to-day.

Captain Jaekel served first in New York's old 7th Infantry, and later was adjutant of the 1st New York Field Artillery. During the Mexican campaign he served on General O'Ryan's staff.

Second Lieutenant Griswold B. Daniel, of the 107th Infantry, and Second Lieutenant Louis G. Janne, of the 104th Field Artillery, have been promoted to be first lieutenants, in orders issued to-day, and Sergeant Paul A. Fiorani, headquarters Company 106th machine gun battalion, has been promoted to be second lieutenant.

Ship Plot Bomb Powders Tested Before Jury

**Demonstration of Com-
bustible Materials Made
in Rintelen Trial**

The government's case against Franz Rintelen, Otto Wolpert and fourteen other Germans, accused of conspiring to blow up the British freighter Kirk Oswald, was closed yesterday after chemical experiments had been made in court to prove the combustible nature of materials contained in the bombs which several of the defendants are accused of manufacturing.

Under examination by James W. Osborne, jr., Assistant United States Attorney, Leo Lieberman, an inspector of combustibles of the Fire Department, mixed minute quantities of sulphuric acid and sodium nitrate, thereby generating nitrogen trioxide and producing heat. The addition of permanganate of potash to the compound resulted in the production of both heat and flame.

Evidence offered by the government has shown that several hundred leaden bomb cases, similar to those found on the Kirk Oswald, were manufactured on board the German liner Friedrich der Grosse, interned at Hoboken. Several of the defendants were members of the crew of that vessel. Further evidence has shown that the tubes, in which there were two chambers divided by a zinc partition, were taken to the laboratory of Dr. Walter P. Seneclae, in Hoboken.

There, the government alleges, they were filled with explosives, sulphuric acid being put in one compartment and sodium nitrate and permanganate of potash in the other. When the acid, through corrosion, penetrated the zinc partition and came in contact with the other chemicals a blaze was kindled, the government alleges, and in this manner ships on which the bombs had been placed were set afire. Bottles containing chemicals similar to those which, it is said, were used by Seneclae were found in the German's abandoned laboratory.

Harry Lane, an employee of the Fabre Steamship Line, was the last witness called by the government. He testified that the Kirk Oswald, on the voyage which terminated with the finding of fire bombs at Marseilles, was laden with sugar, tobacco and sundry food supplies, but that she carried no bombs or ammunition.

George Gordon Battle, representing Rintelen, and the lawyers for the other defendants pleaded for time in which to prepare their arguments. They had been taken by surprise, they explained, by the government's sudden action in resting its case. They were anxious, they further explained, to argue several motions to have the defendants released on lack of evidence. An opportunity, Federal Judge Howe promised, would be given them to-day at 10 o'clock. The jury was excused until 2 p. m. to-day.

Owner Sought for Ferris "Commission"

**Shipping Board Counsel Tells
Senate Committee Fund
Will Be Held Up**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—The Senate investigating committee to-day made further inquiry into commissions which, it is alleged, Theodore E. Ferris, who resigned last week as chief designer for the Shipping Board's Emergency Fleet Corporation, was to receive on the price of twelve ships, contracts for which the Shipping Board let to the Clinchfield Navigation Company, of New York.

Carl S. Stern, assistant counsel to the Shipping Board, told the committee that the fund represented by the alleged commissions would be deposited in a separate account and held until it could be determined to whom the money rightfully belonged. The Fleet Corporation, he said, contends that it must be paid to the Clinchfield company, the Sloane Shipbuilding Corporation, of Seattle, to which contracts for the twelve ships were sublet, or the Fleet Corporation.

While Mr. Stern was on the stand, questions by Senator Johnson, of California, brought out the statement that banking interests and corporations supplying materials to the government had interlocking directorates.

A resolution recommending that the Emergency Fleet Corporation give prompt consideration to the building of concrete ships was adopted by the committee to-day. The board now is expediting with such ships, having one or two under construction.

The committee adjourned to-night until Thursday, when it will hear Major General Goetz and Joseph Cotton, former chief counsel for the Fleet Corporation, in its investigation of the Hog Island shipbuilding yards.

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For Technical Letters— The Dictaphone

Some Dictaphone Users
They have a great deal of technical correspondence, and dictate it all to The Dictaphone.

Automobiles
Packard Motor Car Co.
Timken Detroit Axle Co.
And many others

Electrical Supplies
Johns-Manville Co.
Westinghouse Elec. & Mfg. Co.
And many others

Financial
Federal Reserve Bank
National City Bank, New York
Harris Trust & Savings Co., Chicago
And many others

Government
U. S. Department of Agriculture
U. S. Food Administration
And many others

Insurance
Travelers Ins. Co.
Acme Life Ins. Co.
U. S. Casualty Co.
And many others

Lawyers
District Attorney's Office, New York
A. L. Stinson, Boston
George Gordon Battle, New York
Supreme Court of Appeals, Pittsburgh
And many others

Textile
Besse, Fabry & Co.
The American Woolen Co.
R. Rea & Co.
And many others